

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled).
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the identification code comprises a start code.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the identification code comprises a class of mail code.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the identification code comprises an origin optical character reader code.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the identification code comprises a date code.
6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the identification code comprises a time code.
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the identification code comprises a mailpiece sequence code.
8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the identification code comprises a stop code.
9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the identification code comprises:
  - a start code;
  - a class of mail code;
  - an origin optical character reader code;
  - a date code;
  - a time code;

a mailpiece sequence code; and

a stop code.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the identification file comprises the identification code.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the identification file comprises a postal code.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the identification file comprises an image capture time.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the identification file comprises a plurality of status bits that indicate aspects of the identification file.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the identification file comprises:

the identification code; and

a postal code.

15. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the postal code is a POSTNET code.

16. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the postal code is a POSTNET code.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, further comprising the step of:

using the identification code read from the mailpiece to retrieve identification information from the corresponding identification file at any node on the mailpiece sorting system.

18. (Canceled).

19. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 38, wherein the identification code comprises a start code.

20. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 38, wherein the identification code comprises a class of mail code.

21. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 38, wherein the identification code comprises an origin optical character reader code.

22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 38, wherein the identification code comprises a date code.

23. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 38, wherein the identification code comprises a time code.

24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 38, wherein the identification code comprises a mailpiece sequence code.

25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 38, wherein the identification code comprises a stop code.

26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 38, wherein the identification code comprises:

a start code;

a class of mail code;

an origin optical character reader code;

a date code;

a time code;

a mailpiece sequence code; and

a stop code.

27. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 38, wherein the identification file comprises the identification code.

28. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 38, wherein the identification file comprises a postal code.

29. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 38, wherein the identification file comprises an image capture time.

30. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 38, wherein the identification file comprises a plurality of status bits that indicate aspects of the identification file.

31. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 38, wherein the identification file comprises:

the identification code; and

a postal code.

32. (Original) The system of claim 28, wherein the postal code is a POSTNET code.

33. (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein the postal code is a POSTNET code.

34. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 38, wherein the using component further comprises:

an any node using component configured to use the identification code read from the mailpiece to retrieve identification information from the corresponding identification file at any node on the mailpiece sorting system.

35. (Canceled).

36. (Canceled).

37. (Currently Amended) A method of identifying a plurality of mailpieces in a mailpiece sorting system, using identification codes corresponding to identification files, comprising the steps of:

marking one of the plurality of mailpieces with an identification code that uniquely corresponds to the one mailpiece;

creating an identification file corresponding to the identification code, where the identification [[file]] code is read from the envelope one mailpiece by a plurality of nodes on the mailpiece sorting system including at least one node on a sorting system of a receiving post office and at least one node on a sorting system of a destination post office; and

using the identification code read from the mailpiece to retrieve information from the corresponding identification file for sorting the mailpiece at a plurality of nodes on the mailpiece sorting system including at least one node on the sorting system of [[the]] a receiving post office.

38. (Currently Amended) A system for identifying a plurality of mailpieces in a mailpiece sorting system, using identification codes corresponding to identification files, comprising:

a marking component configured to mark one of the plurality of mailpieces with an identification code that uniquely corresponds to the one mailpiece;

a creating component configured to create an identification file corresponding to the identification code, where the identification file is read from a plurality of nodes on the mailpiece sorting system including at least one node on a sorting system of a receiving post office and at least one node on a sorting system of a destination post office; and

a using component configured to use the identification code read from the mailpiece to retrieve identification information from the corresponding identification file for sorting the mailpiece at a plurality of nodes on the mailpiece sorting system including at least one node on the sorting system of [[the]] a receiving post office.

39. (Previously Presented) A system for identifying a plurality of mailpieces in a mailpiece sorting system, using identification codes corresponding to identification files, comprising:

means for marking one of the plurality of mailpieces with an identification code that uniquely corresponds to the one mailpiece;

means for creating an identification file corresponding to the identification code, where the identification file is read from a plurality of nodes on the mailpiece sorting system including at least one node on a sorting system of a receiving post office and at least one node on a sorting system of a destination post office; and

means for using the identification code read from the mailpiece to retrieve identification information from the corresponding identification file for sorting the

mailpiece at a plurality of nodes on the mailpiece sorting system including at least one node on the sorting system of [[the]] a receiving post office.

40. (Previously Presented) A computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for identifying a plurality of mailpieces in a mailpiece sorting system, the computer readable code comprising:

a marking module configured to mark one of the plurality of mailpieces with an identification code that uniquely corresponds to the one mailpiece;

a creating module configured to create an identification file corresponding to the identification code, where the identification file may be accessed from a plurality of nodes on the mailpiece sorting system including at least one node on a sorting system of a receiving post office and at least one node on a sorting system of a destination post office; and

a using module configured to use the identification code read from the mailpiece to retrieve identification information from the corresponding identification file for sorting the mailpiece at a plurality of nodes on the mailpiece sorting system including at least one node on the sorting system of [[the]] a receiving post office.